NET NOW

THE FAILURE FILES

If you're an online shopper, it can be challenging to keep track of the domino-like demise of "new economy" Web sites. You can track the corporate doom and gloom at sites such as **F***edCompany.com, **TheCompost** *(www.thecompost.com)*, **Moreover.com's** Dot Com Doom News *ww.moreover.com/dotcomdoom)*, and **Dotcom Scoop** *(www.dotcomscoop.com)*. They all offer daily updates on the death throes of once-over-valued firms.

Keep tabs on DOA dot-coms.

PHOTO BY STOCK MARKET

Will anything remain of sites that bought the server farm, if you will? **Ghost Sites'** Museum of E-Failure *(www.disobey.com/ghostsites)* displays hundreds of screenshots of defunct "dot-bombs." Anyone remember Pandesic, Snickelways, or Red Gorilla?

Ghost Sites creator Steve Baldwin, an industry veteran who believes that shakeouts come with the territory, was not surprised when sites "blindly following **Amazon.com's** example," such as **Pets.com,** or suffering from "extreme content hubris," such as **Pathfinder.com,** faltered. "Death is as much a part of life in cyberspace as it is offline," notes Baldwin. "Putting up a Web site and maintaining it over the years is a much harder job than many people anticipated in the great burst of Web fever."

Baldwin created the museum as "a tangible reminder that these sites really did exist, and they have a story to tell that's relevant to the future."

Those who need a more tangible reminder can order the Dead Dot-Bomb Mouse Pad for only $15. *—Kevin Shay*

Watch It

If you believe that your wristwatch should express your technophile tendencies, we've got good news: There's no shortage of high-tech timepieces that use the Web to tell more than just the time.

Casio *(www.casio.com)* offers watches James Bond would love. The Wrist Camera Watch includes a tiny camera. Take a picture and view it on the watch's 120-pixel-square LCD screen, then transfer your photos to your PC. Music lovers will want to strap on Casio's Wrist Audio Player, which stores about 33 minutes of CD-quality MP3s.

First the Handspring, now the Wristspring?

Timex takes a licking and keeps on teching. Its Internet Messenger watch *(mobile.timex.com)* doubles as an alphanumeric pager and can display e-mail, news headlines, sports scores, and other short text messages.

If you don't want to lug around a palm-size PDA, try **Matsucom's** OnHand PC *(www.onhandpc.com)*, a wristwatch that offers 30 PDA functions, including a to-do list, an appointment calendar, and an address book. You can download additional programs, including games and enhanced timekeeping functions.

For sports nuts, there's **Game Time's** Schedule Watch *(www.schedulewatch.com)*, available with Major League Baseball, NFL, and NASCAR schedules. It comes preprogrammed with your favorite team's schedule. At a glance you'll know who, when, and where your team is playing. An alarm sounds in case you forget. Replacement modules will keep your watch up-to-date.

If none of these suits your style, visit **Ewatchfactory** *(www.ewatchfactory.com)*, which allows you to design your own analog watch online. You can choose the case, band, hands, engraving, and dial, including your own picture or company logo in the background. *—Kevin Savetz*

Bluetooth Checkup

Tired of countless cables snarling your work area? Many computer users are looking to Bluetooth, a wireless communications protocol that connects electronic devices over distances of up to 30 feet. Although it's been promised for several years, Bluetooth has seen setbacks that could initially hinder its widespread acceptance.

One highly publicized hiccup came at the CeBIT trade show in Hannover, Germany, where 100 Bluetooth transmitters that were supposed to transform a convention hall into a wireless network failed to communicate. Recently, **Microsoft** announced that Bluetooth will not be supported in upcoming versions of Windows.

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

Many gadget makers are convinced that, despite these early setbacks, customers are ready for Bluetooth. Although few products have been released, a dozen or so are scheduled for later this year. **Hewlett-Packard** *(www.hp.com)* has announced the DeskJet 995C inkjet printer, which will allow users to print without cables.

Bluetooth isn't just for connecting computer peripherals, however. **Motorola** *(www.motorola.com)* has released a Bluetooth-compatible mobile phone. Coupled with a Bluetooth headset, you can chat on the phone without wires dangling from your ears. **GN Netcom** *(www.gnnetcom.com)* will market a wireless headset that can be used with Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones, PDAs, and laptops. And Socket Communications *(www.socketcom.com)* will soon release a Bluetooth-enabled personal network card to enable Internet access via a mobile phone.

Consumers eager to sink their teeth into Bluetooth will likely have to keep waiting. "Expect to see two or three cell phones and two or three different headsets this year," says Martin Reynolds, research fellow at Gartner. He adds that consumers can expect up to 10 Bluetooth PC Cards, and possibly some mice and keyboards, by year's end. "In 2002 we'll start to see significant volume—tens of millions of units."

—Kevin Savetz